

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
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| Applicant's or agent's file reference IP17152 | FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below. | |
| International application No. PCT/IB2004/000884 | International filing date (day/month/year) 28/01/2004 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 28/01/2003 |
| Applicant FAUS GROUP | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 8 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

FLOORING PLANKS HAVING SUB-PANELS WITH COMPLEMENTARY EDGE PATTERNS

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 15a

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/000884**Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/ 182004/000884

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 218

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-43

Flooring planks having decorative patterns

2. claims: 44-47

Floor tiles having non-coplanar upper surfaces

8. JUL. 2005 10:23

EPO-MÜNCHEN
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

NR. 805 S. 14/18

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/000884

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B44C5/04 B44F9/02 E04F15/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B44C B44F E04F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Y | WO 03/006232 A (FAUS GROUP, INC.) 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23) see abstract page 1, line 1 - page 10, last line ; figures 1-3 | 1-43 |
| Y | GB 2 345 269 A (LATCHWELL DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED) 5 July 2000 (2000-07-05) see abstract page 4, line 1 - page 5, last line ; figures 1,2 | 1-43 |
| Y | US 6 401 415 B1 (EUGENIO CRUZ GARCIA) 11 June 2002 (2002-06-11) cited in the application the whole document | 3,5,7,10 |

-/-

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "a" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

30.06.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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| C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| A | DE 199 01 377 A (CORONET-WERKE GMBH) 20 July 2000 (2000-07-20) the whole document | 1-43 |
| A | US 2002/014047 A1 (BERNARD PAUL JOSEPH THIERS) 7 February 2002 (2002-02-07) the whole document | 1-43 |
| A | US 5 295 341 A (MATSUJI KAJIWARA) 22 March 1994 (1994-03-22) cited in the application the whole document | 1-43 |
| A | DE 200 08 837 U (MROCHEN JOACHIM) 17 August 2000 (2000-08-17) the whole document | 1-43 |
| X | US 2 108 226 A (W. S. JOHNSTON) 15 February 1938 (1938-02-15) the whole document | 44-47 |
| X | US 4 131 705 A (EUGENE J. KUBINSKY) 26 December 1978 (1978-12-26) see abstract column 1, line 4 - column 3, line 12; figure 1 | 44-47 |

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|----|---------------------|--|--|
| WO 03006232 | A | 23-01-2003 | US 2003010427 A1 BR 0211326 A CA 2453462 A1 CN 1541158 A DE 20220853 U1 EP 1417091 A1 JP 2004534672 T WO 03006232 A1 US 2003167717 A1 US 2004016501 A1 | 16-01-2003 16-11-2004 23-01-2003 27-10-2004 29-04-2004 12-05-2004 18-11-2004 23-01-2003 11-09-2003 29-01-2004 |
| GB 2345269 | A | 05-07-2000 | AU 5635799 A WO 0014360 A1 | 27-03-2000 16-03-2000 |
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| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 2002014047 A1 | | ZA 200209952 A | 28-10-2003 |
| US 5295341 A | 22-03-1994 | WO 9401628 A2 | 20-01-1994 |
| DE 20008837 U | 17-08-2000 | DE 20008837 U1 | 17-08-2000 |
| US 2108226 A | 15-02-1938 | NONE | |
| US 4131705 A | 26-12-1978 | CA 1105365 A1 | 21-07-1981 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB2004/000886

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Laminated flooring planks (60) include decorative motifs (68) mechanically embossed-in-registration surface textures, recessed perimeters (P) and locking mechanisms (64). Adjacent planks substantially aligned allow embossed-in-registration patterns to be substantially continuous across adjacent flooring panels. The recessed perimeter prevents the edges of the flooring panel from prematurely wearing. Individual planks within the flooring system may comprise at least one partial sub-panel having a decorative motif and/or embossed surface texture (i.e., pattern) that is complementary with a pattern of a neighboring partial sub-panel or plank. Each plank may include edge patterns adjacent a portion of an edge of the plank and at least one bulk pattern adjacent the edge patterns. Edge patterns within a plank and of planks within a flooring system are substantially identical to each other. Bulk patterns form a substantially continuous pattern within an individual plank when adjacent a plank.